

The Wagon Wheel

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Two Members Braved the Cold Waters of Lake Arrowhead

On Saturday, February 1st of this year, two brave members of the Rim of the World Historical Society participated in the annual Polar Bear Plunge at the Lake Arrowhead Resort and Spa.

Laura Sharp and Bill Pumford both made the jump into the frigid water of Lake Arrowhead to help raise money for the Historical Society. The Polar Bear Plunge is sponsored by the Lake Arrowhead Rotary Foundation which raises money to help local charities. The money participants raise is split between each jumper's organization and the Rotary Foundation.

This was Bill's second year making the jump into Lake Arrowhead in February. Bill, who is a Vice President on the Rim of the World Historical Society's Board of Directors, made the jump last year and was brave enough to give it another go this year. This was Laura Sharp's first time taking the plunge and she said the water wasn't all that cold. Hopefully Laura will be back next year for another jump. We thank both Laura and Bill for their efforts on behalf of the Historical Society.



Upcoming Events

Saturday, May 23 – Monday, May 25: The museum will be open from 10:30 am until 4:30 pm on these three Memorial Day Weekend days. This will be your first chance to see all the newly-designed exhibits for our 2020 museum season. See you there.

2020 Museum Opening

The History Museum in Lake Arrowhead will officially open to the public this coming Memorial Day Weekend, May 23rd through May 25th. The museum will then be open every Friday from noon to 4:00, and on Saturdays and Sundays from 10:30 to 4:30.

So now is the time when we start asking our members to consider becoming docents at the Museum. It's not a big time commitment and you don't have to have an extensive knowledge of the history of our Mountain Communities. The One or two days a month is what most of our volunteers work, in 3 hour shifts. Volunteers pick the day and time they want to work. So if interested, please contact Cindy Burnett at cindyburnett123@gmail.com or you can call her at (909)273-4291 for more information.

The Crestline – Lake Gregory Bus

People have asked about the Crestline/LakeGregory Bus that you have seen in various parades and on exhibit at some of the mountain events in which we have participated. This was found in the desert and purchased in 2011 thanks to financial gifts from folks like you.

The Bus was used in the 1950's and 1960's to transport kids, and adults as well, to and from Lake Gregory for a day of fun. It made stops at the Variety Store in VOE and Cliff's Trading Post (now Herington's Realty) in Top Town, with other stops along Lake Drive being added later. The cost of a one-way ride was ten cents.

The bus had been resting in Phelan with the previous owner since 1984. The bus is a 1951 F-5 Ford truck that was modified to carry passengers. Before and After Pictures (after about \$18,000 worth of work) are shown below. When not being driven, the bus has a covered place to rest on the west side of the museum. Be sure to take a look at her when you next visit the museum or at any of many events where she will appear. Take your picture by her. To quote a line from a classic 1950 movie: "I am ready for my close-up, Mr. Deville".



BEFORE



AFTER

Mountain Mileposts

Cattle in the Mountains: Last Roundups

This week's image is a photo of cowboys working in Little Bear Valley. This story of cattle in the San Bernardino Mountains is a continuation last week's column.

A number of trails were available for the cowboys to drive their cattle to market in September after the summer grazing. There were instances of driving cattle down Waterman Canyon to San Bernardino and down City Creek Road to East Highland. Most cattle, however, were driven down Van Dusen Road to Victorville, or down Cushenbury Canyon to Lucerne Valley.

During the latter part of the 1930's and into the 1940's the cattle industry in the mountains began to wane. There were various reasons for this but primarily it was the development of homes, resorts, and camps which took away much of the better grazing areas. The Upper I.S. ranch, as an example, sold their ranch and grazing acreage for development which later became Moonridge near Big Bear.

At the local golf course, cattle would wander over the turf creating great holes, which angered the course owners. This should not have been too surprising since the cattle previously grazed there. Development also occurred in Crestline and Lake Arrowhead which helped to further push the cattle ranchers off the mountain.

Building of dams for the creation of Lake Gregory, Green Valley Lake, Lake Arrowhead, and Big Bear Lake removed many acres formerly available to the cattle ranches for grazing. Yet another reason for the decline in cattle ranching were changes in grazing regulations by the Forest Service. To prevent overgrazing, districts were established that regulated the number of cattle and sheep that could be grazed on each area.

The ultimate result was the disappearance of cowboys and cattle ranches across the San Bernardino mountains — a fate shared earlier by the logging industry.



By Bill Pumford; image from the Russ Keller Collection
Reprinted from the January 15, 2020 issue of the "Mountain News."

President's Message

At this year's Holiday Party held at the Lake Arrowhead Country Club this past December, Board President Cindy Burnett welcomed returning Board Members Greg Naylor, Jinna McBee, Bill Pumford, Marilyn Mays, Ken Brafman and of course Duane Banner. The Board of Directors also welcomed two new members to it's Board this year, both of whom were sworn into Office at the Holiday Party. The Board welcomed John Stephens and Al Stearns to the ROTWHS Board. Both men have served as Museum docents and have contributed their time and efforts to help strengthen and keep the Museum operating smoothly. So we feel very fortunate to have Al and John join the Board.

In looking ahead, the 2020 season at the Museum will see some new and exciting exhibits. Big plans are in the works. Keep an eye out for more information as we get closer to opening. We also hope all the members of the Historical Society will be able to attend our Members Only Pre-Opening Party on Friday, May 22nd from 5:30 to 7:00. This is always a great way to see the new exhibits and make some news friends over a glass of wine.

Another exciting feature this year will be General Meetings for our Membership, accompanied by guest speakers. Coinciding with the Membership Meetings, more outings and visits for our membership to historical sites of interest are in the works. So watch for our e-blasts for information on all these upcoming events. Hope to see you all on May first.

Cindy Burnett
Board President

Way Back When: ROWHS Events April – May 2010

Looking back to the past, I notice I was the Vice President of the historical society and stepping in as a temporary lead due to the illness of our President, Lee Cozad. Those shoes were awful hard to fill and we were hoping Lee would find a full recovery. Unfortunately, this full recovery never came to be.

As part of our continuing education programs with our mountain youth, on the afternoon of Tuesday, April 20, Cub Scouts from the Lake Arrowhead area Bears Den 1 Pack 89 had a preview of the Rim Of The World Historical Society's Mountain History Museum.

The museum tour was conducted by Russ Keller who gave an overview of our San Bernardino mountain history touching on the early Indian tribes and life in the old West - both favorites of the boys. Prior to their museum tour, each Scout was asked to report on 3 historic characters. The reports and the subsequent tour went toward achieving their Bear rank and accompanying badges.

We reported to our members that we received a check for \$25,000 from the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. Thanks to Russ Keller and other museum committee members who worked on this issue. Our museum was finally starting to become a reality

We were busy back then training docents, planning exhibits, and recruiting volunteers for other society and museum tasks. We were hoping to get our museum finally open come summer. As you can see today, we were very successful in achieving that goal.

Joseph Putnam Henck

I am reprinting this exactly as it was given in the April 2010 Wagon Wheel Newsletter for the benefit of our members who have joined since then.

As all of you probably know, we paid a sad farewell to Putty Henck this January 15 at the age of 91. A wonderful tribute to his exceptional life was held at the Lake Arrowhead Resort and it was well attended by many of our members as well as the general mountain public. This was a celebration of “a life well spent.”

Putty was active in our historical society right up to the end and was able to attend our Holiday Dinner in December. There weren't many ROWHS events that he didn't attend and he always attracted friends and neighbors who enjoyed all of his wonderful recollections of our history.

It isn't possible to adequately summarize all that this man – a true mountain icon – and his entire family did for our mountains. Putty was a small child when his family moved to the mountains in the early 1920s. His folks subdivided the area now known as Skyforest and developed the water system for that area.

Putty's mother, Mary Henck, was a graduate of U. C. Berkeley; she understood the importance of education. She started the school system in the lower mountain area, got our library system established, and was one of the founders of the Lake Arrowhead Woman's Club, to name but a few of her contributions to our mountain communities.

The Henck family was very concerned with conservation of the mountain and its forests and water. Mary Henck, as part of an Arbor Day project for the Women's Club, started a reforestation project that became the Heap's Peak Arboretum. Joseph Henck was a member of the county flood commission, a charter member of the Lake Arrowhead Rotary, and served as Lake Arrowhead's first Fire Chief.

Putty earned a degree in Civil Engineering from Berkeley. After service in WW II, he became a general contractor. He headed up many different types of construction projects in the San Bernardino area but is probably best known for his work building Santa's Village.

Putty and his wife, Pamela, were intimately involved with the operation of Santa's Village until the time it closed in 1998.

Pamela passed away in 1997, just before Santa's Village closed. Putty, Pamela, and all of the Hencks will long be remembered in our mountains. Good bye, old friends.

New Members

We welcome the following new members to the Historical Society. We hope to see you at many of our upcoming events so we can get to know you. Welcome aboard.

Angelique Litton

Geoffrey and Lauralea Hopper

Steve & JoDee Ewing

Lindsay Argent

Business Memberships

We wish to thank the following businesses who have purchased a *Business Membership*. Their generous support is greatly appreciated. If you have, or know of, a business, which would be interested in a business membership, give them the Membership Renewal form in this newsletter. If you are in need of the types of services they offer, please give them your consideration.



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The following two mountain businesses have given generously their time, skills, and labor in restoring the Crestline Bus. As our thanks, we are giving each of them a business membership in the Rim of the World Historical Society.

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Winter in the Mountains

Many of our members who weathered this incredible storm over Thanksgiving will remember it. Here on the right, is a scene in Running Springs in 1944. On the left is a similar look at Crestline in 1947, Those folks, or at least most of them, survived those snow storms and so will we.

Come on Mother Nature, hit us with your best shot. We mountain folks are tough.



Rim of the World Historical Society

ROWHS, PO Box 1550, Lake Arrowhead, CA 92352

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